

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES ELEMENT



INTRODUCTION

Fresno County development is dependent on a complex network of public facilities and services. Each type of service has a unique set of constraints and issues and must adapt to growth and change differently. The General Plan sets out policies and implementation programs to respond to this variety of issues and constraints. Since the major themes of the General Plan include directing urban growth to existing communities, limiting the intrusion of development onto productive agricultural land, and limiting the spread of rural residential development, demand for public facilities and services will be controlled.

The Public Facilities and Services Element is organized accordingly into ten sections: General Public Facilities and Services; Funding; Water Supply and Delivery; Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; Storm Drainage and Flood Control; Landfills, Transfer Stations, and Solid Waste Processing Facilities; Law Enforcement; Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services; School and Library Facilities; and Utilities.

A. GENERAL PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Modern development requires a wide range of publicly-provided facilities and services, such as water, wastewater disposal, storm drainage, and garbage collection. The General Plan seeks to provide for the logical and efficient extension of these services as new development occurs.

Policies in this section seek to ensure public facilities and services are available in a timely fashion to serve new development. Related policies are included in Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; LU-G, Incorporated City, Fringe Area and Unincorporated Community Development; Section PF-B, Funding; Section PF-C, Water Supply and Delivery; Section PF-D, Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal; and PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control.

Goal PF-A To ensure the timely development of public facilities and to maintain an adequate level of service to meet the needs of existing and future development.

Policies

Policy PF-A.1 The County shall ensure through the development review process that public facilities and services will be developed, operational, and available to serve new development. The County shall not approve new development where existing facilities are inadequate unless the applicant can demonstrate that all necessary public facilities will be installed or adequately financed and maintained (through fees or other means). (See Policy LU-H.1)

Policy PF-A.2 The County shall require new industrial development to be served by community sewer, stormwater, and water systems where such systems are available or can feasibly be provided.

Definitions for the Public Facilities and Services Element

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): A plan that matches the costs of future projects such as water, sewers, roads, and storm drainage to anticipated revenues. It is a governmental timetable for constructing the permanent improvements and includes timing of the projects, their costs, and the methods for financing.

Composting: To convert a mixture of decaying organic matter into fertilizer or soil amendment.

Municipal Solid Waste: All solid wastes generated by residential, commercial, and industrial sources, as well as all solid waste generated at construction and demolition sites and at food-processing facilities, which are collected and transported under the authorization of a jurisdiction or are self-hauled.

Individual On-site Sewage Disposal Systems: A sewage-disposal system that includes a settling tank through which liquid sewage flows and in which solid sewage settles and is decomposed by bacteria in the absence of oxygen. On-site (septic) systems are often used for individual-home waste disposal where an urban sewer system is not available.

Inert Waste Disposal: Inert waste disposal is that subset of solid waste that does not contain hazardous waste or soluble pollutants at concentrations in excess of applicable water quality objectives, and does not contain significant quantities of decomposable waste.

Public and Quasi-Public Facilities: Institutional, academic, governmental, and community service uses either publicly owned or operated by non-profit organizations.

Regional Landfill: A landfill designed to serve multiple entities (i.e., several cities and unincorporated areas).

Resource Recovery Facility: A solid waste facility designed to utilize a mixed stream of municipal solid waste for conversion to energy or as fuel for conversion to energy after other reusable solid wastes have been reclaimed.

Solid Waste: All putrescible and nonputrescible solid, semisolid, and liquid wastes, including garbage, trash, refuse, paper, rubbish, ashes, industrial wastes, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles and parts thereof, discarded home and industrial appliances, manure, vegetable or animal solid and semisolid wastes, and other discarded solid and semisolid wastes. Solid waste does not include hazardous waste.

Solid Waste Facility: A place, location, tract of land, area, or premises which is in use or intended to be used or which has been used for the disposal or management of municipal solid waste. Solid waste facilities do not include facilities for management of segregated separated waste for salvage or recovery, including segregated agricultural waste.

Transfer/Processing Stations: Solid waste facilities designed to: receive municipal solid wastes; temporarily store, separate, convert, or otherwise process the materials in the solid wastes; or to transfer the solid wastes directly from smaller vehicles to larger vehicles for transport. Excluded from this definition are facilities whose principal function is to receive, store, convert, or otherwise process wastes which have already been separated for reuse and are not intended for disposal (i.e., "recycling center").

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| Policy PF-A.3 | The County shall require new urban commercial and urban-density residential development to be served by community sewer, stormwater, and water systems. |
| Policy PF-A.4 | The County shall encourage the placement of irrigation canals and utility lines underground as urban residential, commercial, and industrial development takes place. |
| Policy PF-A.5 | The County shall oppose the creation of new governmental entities within cities and their spheres of influence and will support efforts to consolidate existing special purpose districts. |
| Policy PF-A.6 | The County shall encourage the cities to consult the County on policy changes which may have an impact on growth or the provision of urban services. |

Implementation Programs

Program PF-A.A The County shall ensure that infrastructure plans or area facilities plans are prepared in conjunction with any new or expanded community or specific plans and are reviewed and updated as needed. Such plans shall contain phasing and facility improvement time lines.

Responsibility: County Administrative Officer
Planning & Resource Management Department
Public Works Department
Time Frame: Annually

B. FUNDING

In the past, Federal and State grants paid for many improvements and expansions of public facilities, but this type of funding has dwindled in recent years. Generally, expansion of facilities or the development of new facilities is the responsibility of the private developer. Public entities are responsible for operation and maintenance of such facilities in accordance with all State, Federal and local laws. Residents and property owners within the service area are responsible for the costs of operation and maintenance of public facilities and services which are usually collected as assessments, charges, and fees for service. The occasional need to upgrade or replace capital facilities may be funded by service fees, surcharge fees, assessments, grants, loans, bonds or other financial instruments.

Policies in this section seek to ensure that new development pays its fair share of the cost of new facilities; that there are adequate funding sources for new facilities and services; and that public financing is equitable, financially feasible, and consistent with County guidelines, policies, and existing fee programs. The policies also seek to ensure that public facilities are constructed in accordance with an approved public facilities plan and in accordance with approved standards of the County or special district. Related policies are included in Section LU-E, Non-Agricultural Rural Development; Section LU-F, Urban Development Patterns; and Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development.

Goal PF-B To ensure that adopted facility and service standards are achieved and maintained through the use of equitable funding methods.

Policies

Policy PF-B.1 The County shall require that new development pays its fair share of the cost of developing new facilities and services and upgrading existing public facilities and services; exceptions may be made when new development generates significant public benefits (e.g., low income housing) and when alternative sources of funding can be identified to offset foregone revenues.

Policy PF-B.2 The County shall seek broad-based funding sources for public facilities and services that benefit current and future residents of the county.

Policy PF-B.3 The County shall require that new development pays the costs of mitigating impacts on existing County facilities to the extent capacity is provided through existing infrastructure networks.

- Policy PF-B.4 The County shall require a public financing plan be in place prior to the start of construction of new development to ensure that all required public improvements are adequately funded and provided in a timely manner.
- Policy PF-B.5 The County shall ensure that public financing be equitable, financially feasible, and consistent with County guidelines, policies, and existing fee programs.
- Policy PF-B.6 If the County forms public financing districts, the County shall efficiently utilize bond proceeds, subject to the requirements of the County's policy for use of public financing for private development projects.
- Policy PF-B.7 The County shall allocate the cost of public improvements to all benefitting properties and, to the extent that a landowner is required to pay for facility oversizing, the County shall utilize reimbursement mechanisms to maintain equity among all benefitting property owners.

Implementation Programs

- Program PF-B.A The County shall prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for designing and constructing County facilities. Roadways shall be included in the separate Roadway Improvement Plan (RIP). The CIP should be updated at least every five (5) years, or concurrently with the approval of any significant amendments to the General Plan.

Responsibility: County Administrative Officer
 Planning & Resource Management Department
 Public Works Department
 Board of Supervisors

Time Frame: FY 01-02; every five (5) years thereafter

- Program PF-B.B The County shall develop and adopt ordinances specifying acceptable methods for new development to pay for new capital facilities and expanded services. Possible mechanisms include development fees, assessment districts, land/facility dedications, county service areas, and community facilities districts. (See Policies PF-B.1 and PF-B.3)

Responsibility: County Administrative Officer
 Planning & Resource Management Department
 Public Works Department
 Board of Supervisors

Time Frame: FY 01-02; 02-03

C. WATER SUPPLY AND DELIVERY

Water supply and delivery is one of the most critical issues for Fresno County and is essential to the environment, economy, and quality of life in Fresno County. Readily available groundwater and the development of facilities for the storage and conveyance of surface water have allowed Fresno County to grow and prosper as the nation's premier agricultural region. Fresno County's agriculture and its many dependent businesses are sustained by an

affordable and reliable water supply made possible through conjunctive use of groundwater and stored surface water. In addition, the ready availability of high quality groundwater allows most residents, municipalities, and industries within Fresno County to meet their water supply needs without expensive delivery and treatment infrastructure.

However, there are a number of factors affecting the county's existing water resources. Throughout much of the county, groundwater is in a state of overdraft. In some county areas, contamination from natural or manmade sources has reduced groundwater quality such that its use requires treatment. Increased contamination of **surface water sources is also an emerging concern.** There are also concerns regarding the import and export of surface water that could affect long-term supplies. Finally, there is the increase in water demand that will accompany the county's anticipated growth.

Policies in this section seek to ensure an adequate water supply for both domestic and agricultural users by providing necessary facility improvements, ensuring water availability, and utilizing water conservation measures. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources; Section PF-B, Funding; and Section PF-E, Storm Drainage and Flood Control.

Goal PF-C To ensure the availability of an adequate and safe water supply for domestic and agricultural consumption.

Policies

General

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| Policy PF-C.1 | The County shall actively engage in efforts and support the efforts of others to retain existing water supplies within Fresno County. |
| Policy PF-C.2 | The County shall actively engage in efforts and support the efforts of others to import flood, surplus, and other available waters for use in Fresno County. |
| Policy PF-C.3 | To reduce demand on the county's groundwater resources, the County shall encourage the use of surface water to the maximum extent feasible. |
| Policy PF-C.4 | The County shall support efforts to expand groundwater and/or surface water storage that benefits Fresno County. |
| Policy PF-C.5 | The County shall develop a County water budget to determine long-term needs and to determine whether existing and planned water resource enhancements will meet the county's needs over the twenty (20) year General Plan horizon. |
| Policy PF-C.6 | The County shall support water banking when the program has local sponsorship and involvement and provides new benefits to the County. |
| Policy PF-C.7 | The County shall recommend to all cities and urban areas within the county that they adopt the most cost-effective urban best management practices (BIPs) published and updated by the California Urban Water Agencies, California Department of Water Resources, or other appropriate agencies as a means of meeting some of the future water supply needs. |

- Policy PF-C.8 The County shall require preparation of water master plans for areas undergoing urban growth.
- Policy PF-C.9 The County shall work with local irrigation districts to preserve local water rights and supply.
- Policy PF-C.10 The County shall require any community water system in new residential subdivisions to be owned and operated by a public entity.
- Policy PF-C.11 The County shall assure an on-going water supply to help sustain agriculture and accommodate future growth by allocation of resources necessary to carry out the water resource management programs.

Domestic Water Supply

- Policy PF-C.12 The County shall approve new development only if an adequate sustainable water supply to serve such development is demonstrated.
- Policy PF-C.13 The County shall limit development in areas identified as having severe groundwater level declines or limited groundwater availability to uses that do not have high water usage or can be served by a surface water supply.
- Policy PF-C.14 The County shall require that water supplies serving new development meet US Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Health Services and other water quality and quantity standards.
- Policy PF-C.15 The County shall require that surface water used to serve new development be treated in accordance with the requirements of the California Surface Water Treatment Rule.
- Policy PF-C.16 If the cumulative effects of more intensive land use proposals are detrimental to the water supplies of surrounding areas, the County shall require approval of the project to be dependent upon adequate mitigation. The County shall require that costs of mitigating such adverse impacts to water supplies be borne proportionately by all parties to the proposal.
- Policy PF-C.17 The County shall, prior to consideration of any discretionary project related to land use, undertake a water supply evaluation. The evaluation shall include the following:
1. A determination that the water supply is adequate to meet the highest demand that could be permitted on the lands in question. If surface water is proposed, it must come from a reliable source and the supply must be made “firm” by water banking or other suitable arrangement. If groundwater is proposed, a hydrogeologic investigation may be required to confirm the availability of water in amounts necessary to meet project demand. If the lands in question lie in an area of limited groundwater, a hydrogeologic investigation shall be required.

2. A determination of the impact that use of the proposed water supply will have on other water users in Fresno County. If use of surface water is proposed, its use must not have a significant negative impact on agriculture or other water users within Fresno County. If use of groundwater is proposed, a hydrogeologic investigation may be required. If the lands in question lie in an area of limited groundwater, a hydrogeologic investigation shall be required. Should the investigation determine that significant pumping-related physical impacts will extend beyond the boundary of the property in question, those impacts shall be mitigated.
- c. A determination that the proposed water supply is sustainable or that there is an acceptable plan to achieve sustainability. The plan must be structured such that it is economically, environmentally, and technically feasible. In addition, its implementation must occur prior to long-term and/or irreversible physical impacts, or significant economic hardship, to surrounding water users.

Policy PF-C.18 In the case of lands entitled to surface water, the County shall only approve land use-related projects that provide for or participate in effective utilization of the surface water entitlement such as:

- a. Constructing facilities for the treatment and delivery of surface water to lands in question;
- b. Developing facilities for groundwater recharge of the surface water entitlement;
- c. Participating in the activities of a public agency charged with the responsibility for recharge of available water supplies for the beneficial use of the subject lands.

Policy PF-C.19 The County shall discourage the proliferation of small community water systems.

Policy PF-C.20 The County shall not permit new private water wells within areas served by a public water system.

Agricultural Water Supply

Policy PF-C.21 The County shall promote the use of surface water for agricultural use to reduce groundwater table reductions.

Water Transfer Policies

Policy PF-C.22 The County supports short-term water transfers as a means for local water agencies to maintain flexibility in meeting water supply requirements. The County shall support long-term transfer, assignment, or sale of water and/or water entitlements to users outside of the County only under the following circumstances:

1. The impacts of the transfer on Fresno County are mitigated;
2. The transfer is part of a long-term solution to the region's water supply shortfall; and

3. The transfer will not result in a net decrease in the availability of surface and/or groundwater to water users within Fresno County.

Policy PF-C.23 The County shall regulate the transfer of groundwater for use outside of Fresno County. The regulation shall extend to the substitution of groundwater for transferred surface water.

Policy PF-C.24 The County shall encourage the transfer of unused or surplus agricultural water to urban uses within Fresno County.

Water Conservation

Policy PF-C.25 The County shall require that all new development within the County use water conservation technologies, methods, and practices as established by the County.

Policy PF-C.26 The County shall encourage the use of reclaimed water where economically, environmentally, and technically feasible.

Policy PF-C.27 The County shall adopt, and recommend to all cities that they also adopt, the most cost-effective urban best water conservation management practices circulated and updated by the California Urban Water Agencies, California Department of Water Resources, or other appropriate agencies.

Policy PF-C.28 The County shall encourage agricultural water conservation where economically, environmentally, and technically feasible.

Policy PF-C.29 The County shall, in order to reduce excessive water usage, require tiered water pricing within County Service Areas and County Waterworks Districts.

Policy PF-C.30 The County shall generally not approve land use-related projects that incorporate a man-made lake or pond that will be sustained by the use of groundwater.

Implementation Programs

Program PF-C.A The County shall develop a process for resolution of water supply problems and apply the process when areas of need are identified.

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department

Time Frame: FY 01-02

Program PF-C.B The County shall develop a geographic based data system for identification of well sites, including newly constructed and destructed wells.

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department

Community Health Department

Time Frame: FY 02-03

Program PF-C.C The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared water master plans for water delivery systems for areas undergoing urban growth. The County shall have approved such plans prior to implementation. (See Policy PF-C.8)

Responsibility: Public Works Department, Surveyor's Office
Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: As needed

Program PF-C.D The County shall develop and implement a tiered water pricing structure for County Service Areas and Waterworks Districts. (See Policy PF-C.29)

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: FY 02-03

Program PF-C.E The County shall establish water demand standards based on types and sizes of uses to serve as a basis for determining the adequacy of a proposed water supply for new development. (See Policy PF-C.14)

Responsibility: Public Works Department
Time Frame: FY 01-02

Program PF-C.F The County shall establish a review and/or regulatory process for proposed transfers of surface water to areas outside of the county and for substitution of groundwater for transferred surface water. (See Policy PF-C.23)

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: FY 00-01

Program PF-C.G The County shall develop a list of water conservation technologies, methods, and practices that maximize the beneficial use of water resources. The County shall review and update the list periodically to eliminate practices that no longer prove beneficial and add new technologies that become available. (See Policy PF-C.28)

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: FY 01-02

D. WASTEWATER COLLECTION, TREATMENT, AND DISPOSAL

Cities and special districts own and operate numerous wastewater collection systems throughout the county. Residents in rural areas that are not served by centralized systems use on-site septic systems. Industries are required to provide treatment or pre-treatment of their wastewater and obtain separate discharge permits from the **Central Valley California Regional Water Quality Control Board** (Regional Board). Many unincorporated communities have elected to form special districts to provide sewage collection and wastewater treatment, as well as other services. Approximately 30 of these districts provide wastewater services. The County owns and operates ten wastewater treatment facilities on behalf of water works districts and county service areas.

Fresno County's Mandatory Sewer Connection Ordinance requires connection to public sewer systems where they are available, precluding the issuance of permits for installation of individual on-site septic systems in such cases. In areas where public systems become available where they did not previously exist, structures served by individual septic systems must be connected to the public system within three years, or sooner if the existing facilities pose a health risk.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the safe disposal of wastewater by promoting efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand in centralized systems and by ensuring safe development, operation, and maintenance of on-site septic systems. Related policies are included in Section OS-A, Water Resources, and Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-D To ensure adequate wastewater collection and treatment and the safe disposal of wastewater.

Policies

- Policy PF-D.1 The County shall encourage the installation of public wastewater treatment facilities in existing communities that are experiencing repeated septic system failures and lack sufficient area for septic system repair or replacement and/or are posing a potential threat to groundwater.
- Policy PF-D.2 The County shall require that any new community sewer and wastewater treatment facilities serving residential subdivisions be owned and maintained by a County Service Area or other public entity approved by the County.
- Policy PF-D.3 The County shall require that any new community wastewater treatment facility meet the policy standard of Policy OS-A.26.
- Policy PF-D.4 The County shall limit the expansion of unincorporated, urban density communities to areas where community wastewater treatment facilities cannot be provided.
- Policy PF-D.5 The County shall promote efficient water use and reduced wastewater system demand by:
- a. Requiring water-conserving design and equipment in new construction;
 - b. Encouraging retrofitting with water-conserving devices; and
 - c. Designing wastewater systems to minimize inflow and infiltration, to the extent economically feasible.
- Policy PF-D.6 The County shall permit individual on-site sewage disposal systems on parcels that have the area, soils, and other characteristics that permit installation of such disposal facilities without threatening surface or groundwater quality or posing any other health hazards and where community sewer service is not available and cannot be provided.
- Policy PF-D.7 The County shall require preparation of sewer master plans for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth.

Implementation Programs

- Program PF-D.A The County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a sewer master plan for wastewater treatment facilities for areas experiencing urban growth. The County shall have approved such plans prior to implementation. (See Policy PF-D.8)

Responsibility: Public Works Department, Surveyor's Office
Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: As needed

E. STORM DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL

Flooding is a natural occurrence in the Central Valley because it is the drainage basin for thousands of watershed acres of Sierra Nevada and Coast Range foothills and mountains. Flooding in Fresno County occurs primarily along the Kings River in the central-eastern portion of the county and some sections of the San Joaquin River and along many of the foothill streams along the east and west sides of the valley.

The valley floor of Fresno County has many challenges concerning storm drainage and flood control due to its mountain watersheds and the flat topography of the central valley floor. During the winter and spring months, river and stream systems in Fresno County swell with heavy rainfall and snow melt runoff. Diverting and retaining this water for groundwater replenishment is crucial for not only public safety but maintaining an adequate water supply for domestic and agricultural uses.

Policies in this section seek to ensure safe, efficient, and environmentally-sound means to drain stormwater and provide flood control by providing necessary facility improvements, ensuring adequate funding, providing a means to detain/retain runoff, and ensuring the facilities meet State environmental regulations. Related policies are included in Section HS-C, Flood Hazards; Section OS-A, Water Resources; and Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-E To provide efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally-sound storm drainage and flood control facilities that protect both life and property and to divert and retain stormwater runoff for groundwater replenishment.

Policies

- Policy PF-E.1 The County shall coordinate with the agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage to assure that construction and acquisition of flood control and drainage facilities are adequate for future urban growth authorized by the County General Plan and city general plans.
- Policy PF-E.2 The County shall encourage the agencies responsible for flood control of storm drainage to coordinate the multiple use of flood control and drainage facilities with other public agencies.
- Policy PF-E.3 The County shall encourage the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to spread the cost of construction and acquisition of flood control and drainage facilities in the most equitable manner consistent with the growth and needs of this area.
- Policy PF-E.4 The County shall encourage the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage to require that storm drainage systems be developed and expanded to meet the needs of existing and planned development.

- Policy PF-E.5 The County shall only approve land use-related projects that will not render inoperative any existing canal, encroach upon natural channels, and/or restrict natural channels in such a way as to increase potential flooding damage.
- Policy PF-E.6 The County shall require that drainage facilities be installed concurrently with and as a condition of development activity to ensure the protection of the new improvements as well as existing development that might exist within the watershed.
- Policy PF-E.7 The County shall require new development to pay its fair share of the costs of Fresno County storm drainage and flood control improvements within unincorporated areas.
- Policy PF-E.8 The County shall encourage the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage to precisely locate drainage facilities well in advance of anticipated construction, thereby facilitating timely installation and encouraging multiple construction projects to be combined, reducing the incidence of disruption of existing facilities.
- Policy PF-E.9 The County shall require new development to provide protection from the 100-year flood as a minimum.
- Policy PF-E.10 In growth areas within the jurisdiction of a local agency responsible for flood control or storm drainage, the County shall encourage that agency to design drainage facilities as if the entire areas of service were developed to the pattern reflected in the adopted General Plans to assure that the facilities will be adequate as the land use intensifies.
- Policy PF-E.11 The County shall encourage project designs that minimize drainage concentrations and maintain, to the extent feasible, natural site drainage patterns.
- Policy PF-E.12 The County shall coordinate with the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage to ensure that future drainage system discharges comply with applicable State and Federal pollutant discharge requirements.
- Policy PF-E.13 The County shall encourage the use of natural storm water drainage systems to preserve and enhance natural drainage features.
- Policy PF-E.14 The County shall encourage the use of retention-recharge basins for the conservation of water and the recharging of the groundwater supply.
- Policy PF-E.15 The County should require that retention-recharge basins be suitably landscaped to complement adjacent areas and should, wherever possible, be made available to the community to augment open space and recreation needs.
- Policy PF-E.16 The County shall minimize sedimentation and erosion through control of grading, cutting of trees, removal of vegetation, placement of roads and bridges, and use of off-road vehicles. The County shall discourage grading activities during the rainy season, unless adequately mitigated, to avoid sedimentation of creeks and damage to riparian habitat.

- Policy PF-E.17 The County shall encourage the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage retention-recharge basins located in soil strata strongly conducive to groundwater recharge, where practical, be developed and operated in such a way as to facilitate year-round groundwater recharge.
- Policy PF-E.18 The County shall encourage the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage to plan retention-recharge basins on the principle that the minimum number will be the most economical to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain.
- Policy PF-E.19 The County shall encourage the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage discharge of runoff from local drainage areas directly into major canals and other natural water courses within the limits of the capacity of the channels to carry such runoff in cases where areas are so highly urbanized as to not permit the acquisition and use of retention-recharge basins or where drainage areas are otherwise not suited to the use of retention-recharge basins.
- Policy PF-E.20 The County shall require new development of facilities near rivers, creeks, reservoirs, or substantial aquifer recharge areas to mitigate any potential impacts of release of pollutants in flood waters, flowing rivers, streams, creeks, or reservoir waters.
- Policy PF-E.21 The County shall require the use of feasible and practical best management practices (BMPs) to protect streams from the adverse effects of construction activities, and shall encourage the urban storm drainage systems and agricultural activities to use BMPs.
- Policy PF-E.22 The County shall encourage the local agencies responsible for flood control or storm drainage to control obnoxious odors or mosquito breeding conditions connected with any agency facility by appropriate measures.

Implementation Programs

- Program PF-E.A The County shall work with responsible flood control agencies to pursue adoption of appropriate regulations and programs as necessary and appropriate to implement required actions under State and Federal stormwater quality programs. (See Policy PF-E.13)

Responsibility:	Public Works Department Planning & Resource Management Department Board of Supervisors
Time Frame:	Ongoing

F. LANDFILLS, TRANSFER STATIONS, AND SOLID WASTE PROCESSING FACILITIES

The siting of solid waste facilities in the United States has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Proper siting of solid waste facilities such as landfills, transfer and processing stations, and resource recovery facilities is crucial to ensure protection of the environment and to meet the increasingly stringent legislative requirements for such facilities.

Fresno County operates two active solid waste disposal facilities or landfills: the American Avenue Landfill and the Coalinga Landfill. These landfills have a service area of 6,000 square miles. Portions of the unincorporated areas of the county also use the Clovis Landfill and the Orange Avenue Landfill. Only a small portion of the unincorporated county's solid waste is taken to these facilities, as the Clovis Landfill serves mainly the city of Clovis, and the Orange Avenue Landfill serves mainly the city of Fresno.

Policies in this section reaffirm and incorporate the goals and policies of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed between the Cities of Fresno and Clovis and the County of Fresno, which address solid waste disposal and facilities. Related policies are included in Section HS-F, Hazardous Materials.

Goal PF-F To ensure the safe and efficient disposal or recycling of solid waste generated in the county in an effort to protect the public health and safety.

Policies

Policy PF-F.1 The County shall continue to promote maximum use of solid waste source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and environmentally-safe transformation of wastes.

Policy PF-F.2 The County shall locate all new solid waste facilities including disposal sites, resource recovery facilities, transfer facilities, processing facilities, composting facilities, and other similar facilities in areas where potential environmental impacts can be mitigated and the facilities are compatible with surrounding land uses. Site selection for solid waste facilities shall be guided by the following criteria:

- a. Solid waste facility sites shall not be located within the conical surface, as defined by Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 77, of a public use airport, except for enclosed facilities;
- b. Solid waste facilities shall not be sited on productive agricultural land if less productive lands are available;
- c. Solid waste facilities shall be located in areas of low concentrations of people and dwellings; and
- d. Solid waste facilities shall be located along or close to major road systems. Facility traffic through residential neighborhoods should not be permitted. It is preferable that the roadways used for solid waste transfer conform to approved truck routes.
- e. Solid waste facilities shall not be located adjacent to rivers, reservoirs, canals, lakes, or other waterways.

- Policy PF-F.3 The County shall protect existing or planned solid waste facilities from encroachment by incompatible land uses that may be allowed through discretionary land use permits or changes in land use or zoning designations.
- Policy PF-F.4 The County shall ensure that all new development complies with applicable provisions of the County Integrated Waste Management Plan.
- Policy PF-F.5 The County shall not allow the siting of new landfills. The County shall phase out privately-owned landfills, except for inert disposal sites. The County shall not permit existing privately-owned landfills to expand beyond the current capacities, which are defined in their solid waste facility permits.
- Policy PF-F.6 The County shall impose site development and operational conditions on new solid waste facilities in order to mitigate potential environmental impacts on existing and planned land uses in the area.
- Policy PF-F.7. The County has designated the American Avenue Landfill as the regional landfill to serve the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. The publicly-operated Coalinga and Clovis landfills may continue to operate provided the sites are operated economically and in compliance with all environmental laws and regulations. Existing publicly operated may be expanded.
- Policy PF-F.8 The County shall require the following siting criteria for transfer/processing stations:
- a. Sites shall be of adequate size to accommodate proposed transfer/processing station operations and vehicle storage and should be of adequate size to provide for expansion to accommodate future shifts in resource recovery technology;
 - b. Transfer stations shall be located within designated commercial or industrial areas except where commercial and industrial lands are only limitedly available within the Sierra-North and Sierra-South Regional Plans. Landfills closed under appropriate closure regulations may be considered for transfer station sites; and
 - c. Transfer station sites with direct access to or in transportation corridors are preferable.
- Policy PF-F.9 The County shall require the following siting criteria for resource recovery facilities:
- a. Sites shall be of adequate size to accommodate the proposed plant and facilities anticipated for future shifts in resource recovery and pollution control technology;
 - b. Sites should provide opportunities for steam use or development of steam users or otherwise maximize energy utilization;
 - c. Sites with existing or planned urban residential land uses downwind should be avoided; and
 - d. Resource Recovery sites with direct access to or in transportation corridors are preferable.

Policy PF-F.11 The County shall require the following siting criteria for inert waste disposal sites:

- a. Sites shall be of adequate size to accommodate proposed waste disposal operations;
- b. Operation of disposal sites should not increase the site elevation above elevations of adjacent properties and should not preclude reasonable future use of the property; and
- c. Permanent site improvements associated with inert waste disposal should be discouraged, as the inert disposal operation is a temporary operation.

Implementation Programs

Program PF-F.A The County shall require new commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential uses to provide adequate areas on-site to accommodate the collection and storage of recyclable materials.
(See Policy PF-F.1)

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: FY 01-02

G. LAW ENFORCEMENT

When unincorporated communities develop and other development occurs in the county, consideration must be given to the adequacy of law enforcement facilities and services. Development normally occurs over a long period of time and involves many developers.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement service by providing that adequate staffing, facilities, and funding are available in new development areas. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding, and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

Goal PF-G To protect life and property by deterring crime and ensuring the prompt and efficient provision of law enforcement service and facility needs to meet the growing demand for police services associated with an increasing population.

Policies

- Policy PF-G.1 The County shall ensure the provision of effective law enforcement services to unincorporated areas in the county.
- Policy PF-G.2 The County shall identify and establish funds for acquisition of adequate sheriff facility sites in unincorporated locations of the county.
- Policy PF-G.3 The County shall require development to pay its fair share of the costs for providing law enforcement facilities and equipment to maintain service standards.
- Policy PF-G.4 The County shall provide police support to adequately maintain its service standards, within the County's budgetary constraints.

- Policy PF-G.5 The County shall promote the incorporation of safe design features (e.g., lighting, adequate view from streets into parks) into new development by providing Sheriff Department review of development proposals.

Implementation Programs

- Program PF-G.A The County shall prepare and adopt a master plan to identify locations for sheriff substations and community offices. The County should further evaluate these locations in the regional and unincorporated community plan updates. (See Policy PF-G.1)

Responsibility: Sheriff's Department
 Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: As needed

H. FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

When unincorporated areas develop, consideration must be given to the adequacy of fire protection and emergency medical facilities and services. Development normally occurs over a long period of time and involves many developers. It is, therefore, essential that policies be developed whereby new development can share the cost of providing needed fire protection and emergency medical facilities.

Policies in this section seek to ensure the prompt and efficient provision of fire and emergency medical facility and service needs, ensure adequate funding is available in new development areas, and protect the life and property of residents of and visitors to Fresno County. Related policies are included in Section HS-A, Emergency Management and Response; Section HS-B, Fire Hazards; Section PF-B, Funding; Section LU-G, Incorporated City, City Fringe Area, and Unincorporated Community Development; and Section TR-A, Streets and Highways.

- Goal PF-H** To ensure the prompt and efficient provision of fire and emergency medical facility and service needs, to protect residents of and visitors to Fresno County from injury and loss of life, and to protect property from fire.

Policies

- Policy PF-H.1 The County shall work cooperatively with local fire protection districts to ensure the provision of effective fire and emergency medical services to unincorporated areas within the county.
- Policy PF-H.2 Prior to the approval of development projects, the County shall determine the need for fire protection services. New development in unincorporated areas of the County shall not be approved unless adequate fire protection facilities are provided.
- Policy PF-H.3 The County shall require that new fire stations be located to achieve and maintain a service level capability consistent with services for existing land uses.

- Policy PF-H.4 The County shall reserve adequate sites for fire and emergency medical facilities in unincorporated locations in the county.
- Policy PF-H.5 The County shall require that new development be designed to maximize safety and minimize fire hazard risks to life and property.
- Policy PF-H.6 The County shall limit development to very low densities in areas where emergency response times will be more than 20 minutes.
- Policy PF-H.7 The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies in the county to maintain the following as minimum fire protection standards (expressed as Insurance Service Organization (ISO) ratings):
1. ISO 4 in urban areas;
 2. ISO 6 in suburban areas; and
 3. ISO 8 in rural areas.
- Policy PF-H.8 The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies in the county to maintain the following as minimum standards for average first alarm response times to emergency calls:
1. 5 minutes in urban areas;
 2. 15 minutes in suburban areas; and
 3. 20 minutes in rural areas.
- Policy PF-H.9 The County shall require new development to develop or to pay its fair share of the costs to fund fire protection facilities that, at a minimum, maintain the service level standards in the preceding policies.
- Policy PF-H.10 The County shall ensure that all proposed developments are reviewed for compliance with fire safety standards by responsible local fire agencies per the Uniform Fire Code and other State and local ordinances.
- Policy PF-H.11 The County shall encourage local fire protection agencies to provide and maintain advanced levels of emergency medical services (EMS) to the public, consistent with current practice.

Implementation Programs

- Program PF-H.A If a Fire Protection Master Plan has not been prepared for the area and the County Director of Planning & Resource Management Department determines that additional fire protection facilities are needed, the County shall not approve discretionary development until such time as a Master Plan has been adopted or other facilities acceptable to the Director are provided, with appeal rights as provided by County Ordinance. The Fire Protection Master Plan must contain the following information: identification of water supply; delineation of the service area boundary; designation of an appropriate fire protection entity; determination of structural, equipment, and personnel needs and costs; and a financing plan based on shared benefit. (See Policy PF-H.2)

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame: As needed

Program PF-H.B The County shall work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, local fire protection agencies, and city fire departments to maximize the use of resources to develop functional and/or operational consolidations and standardization of services and to maximize the efficient use of fire protection resources. (See Policy PF-H.1)

Responsibility: County Administrative Officer
County Fire District
Time Frame: Ongoing

I. SCHOOL AND LIBRARY FACILITIES

New residential development has the potential for increasing enrollment and overcrowding existing school facilities. In fact, 2020 population projections estimate an additional 344,000 new persons in the county which would likely add 77,800 students and create a demand for 101 new schools (74 elementary schools, 13 middle schools, and 14 high schools). Since funds for the construction of new schools are scarce, one of the county's biggest challenges is to ensure that new residential developments that have the potential for causing overcrowding to existing schools, not be constructed unless adequate public school facilities are available or will be available to meet the needs of the proposed development. In addition, new residential growth will bring demand for new or expanded library facilities in the county.

Policies in this section seek to provide safe access to schools, maintain acceptable levels of service, and ensure adequate funding for new school and library facilities. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-I To provide for the educational needs of Fresno County.

Policies

- Policy PF-I.1 The County shall encourage school districts to provide quality educational facilities to accommodate projected student growth in locations consistent with land use policies of the General Plan.
- Policy PF-I.2 The County shall encourage school facility siting that establishes schools as focal points within the neighborhood and community in areas with safe pedestrian and bicycle access.
- Policy PF-I.3 The County shall consider school district plans when designating existing and future school sites in community plans and specific plans to accommodate school district needs.
- Policy PF-I.4 The County shall work cooperatively with school districts in monitoring housing, population, and school enrollment trends and in planning for future school facility needs and shall assist school districts in locating appropriate sites for new schools.

Policy PF-I.5	The County shall involve school districts in the early stages of residential land use planning, such as during the adoption or updating of specific, community, and regional plans, to provide a coordinated effort for the planning of school facilities.
Policy PF-I.6	The County strongly discourages the siting of schools in agricultural areas due to the growth-inducing potential of schools and conflicts with farming practices such as pesticide applications.
Policy PF-I.7	The County shall include schools among those public facilities and services that are considered an essential part of the development service facilities that should be in place as development occurs and shall work with residential developers and school districts to ensure that needed school facilities are available to serve new residential development.
Policy PF-I.8	The County and school districts should work closely to secure adequate funding for new school facilities. The County shall support the school districts efforts to obtain appropriate funding methods such as school impact fees.
Policy PF-I.9	The County shall promote provision of library services throughout the county and create new facilities as appropriate or expand existing facilities to meet additional demand from new growth.

Implementation Programs

Program PF-I.A The County shall coordinate the updating of regional, community, and specific plans necessitated by the general plan with applicable school districts to identify the need for and potential location of new or expanded school facilities. (See Policies PF-I.3, PF-I.4, and PF-I.5)

Responsibility:	Planning & Resource Management Department
Time Frame:	Ongoing

J. UTILITIES

Within the county, there are several private companies that provide electrical, gas, and telephone services. Mutual support among the County and these companies is essential to the efficient provision of existing services and to ensure that new service needs such as telecommunications are met.

Policies in this section seek to facilitate the efficient provision of necessary services and facilities and to minimize the impacts of utilities on surrounding land uses. Related policies are included in Section PF-B, Funding.

Goal PF-J	To provide efficient and cost-effective utilities that serve the existing and future needs of people in the unincorporated areas of the county.
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Policies

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| Policy PF-J.1 | The County shall encourage the provision of adequate gas and electric, communications, and telecommunications service and facilities to serve existing and future needs. |
| Policy PF-J.2 | The County shall work with local gas and electric utility companies to design and locate appropriate expansion of gas and electric systems, while minimizing impacts to agriculture and minimizing noise, electromagnetic, visual, and other impacts on existing and future residents. |
| Policy PF-J.3 | The County shall require all new residential development along with new urban commercial and industrial development to underground utility lines on-site. |
| Policy PF-J.4 | The County shall require compliance with the Wireless Communications Guidelines for siting of communication towers in unincorporated areas of the county. |

Implementation Programs

None indicated beyond existing programs.